CESAR BEGINS A FAST IN DELANO

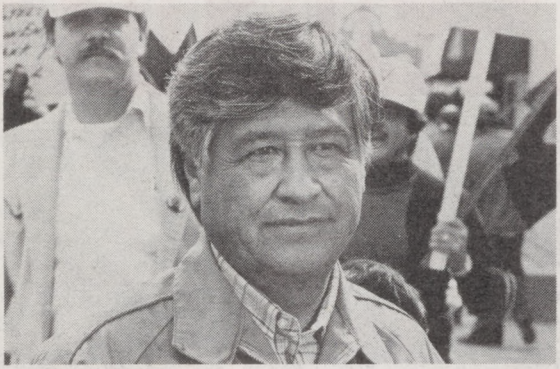
FOOD AND JUSTICE

Published by the United Farm Workers

July 1988

DO THE BOYCOTT YOURSELF

EDITORIAL



ANY STORE, ANYWHERE

One of the most memorable experiences in both of our previous grape boycotts was seeing how good people throughout the country simply took it upon themselves to check stores, see if they were carrying boycotted grapes, and then take action to get them to stop selling grapes until the boycott was over.

It was a powerful phenomenon. And incredibly heartwarming for farm workers.

Now, having launched our store boycott, starting with A&P (see **Food and Justice,** May 1988), we are seeing signs of a similar response in this boycott. Besides several million people already boycotting grapes, sending in financial contributions, and distributing our video, "The Wrath of Grapes," our national boycott office has had a flood of responses to the May issue tear-off in which we invited concerned people to choose their own way to support the boycott actively.

The focus of the store boycott campaign continues to be A&P, but many active supporters do not live near an A&P-owned supermarket. We are asking you to go after California table grapes at the store that is most convenient for you. We are encouraging a campaign of non-cooperation with all supermarkets that profit from poisoned grapes. And California table grapes are doubly poisoned — by the sweat of unjustly treated farm workers and by the residues of toxic pesticides.

We invite you to read our cover story (pp. 3-4) and take whatever action you can to get your local supermarket — or any store, anywhere — to stop selling California table grapes.

Volume 5, Number 5

Food and Justice

July 1988

Magazine of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO
La Paz, Keene, CA 93570

National Executive Board:
Cesar E. Chavez: President
Peter Velasco: Secretary-Treasurer
Dolores Huerta: First Vice-President
David Martinez: Second Vice-President
Ben Maddock: Third Vice-President
Arturo Rodriguez: Member
Arturo Mendoza: Member
Oscar Mondragon: Member

Editor:
Cesar E. Chavez

Associate Editor:
Rev. Chris Hartmire

Writers:
Fr. Ken Irrgang
Armando Cerda

Photographer:
Victor Aleman

Production Director:
Paul Chavez

© 1988 The title United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, **Food and Justice**, is registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Food and Justice (ISSN 0885-0704) is published monthly for $5 per year by the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, Old Highway 58, La Paz, Keene, California 93570.

Non-Cooperation with Supermarkets...

Take On Your Local Store!

The UFW has a ready answer for the many good people who, after hearing about the boycott, pledging not to buy grapes, making financial contributions to the boycott, passing "The Wrath of Grapes" video on to others, still ask: "What else can I do to help the boycott?"

The UFW's answer to that welcome question is all-embracing: anyone, anytime, anywhere. Any individual can do it. It can be done anytime (whenever a store is open) and anywhere — from Hawaii to Maine, from the tip of Canada to the southernmost point of Florida — wherever any store, not just A&P, still carries California table grapes.

"It's our adopt-a-store, do-it-yourself answer to the what-else-can-I-do question," said Dolores Huerta, first vice-president of the UFW.

Getting started is as easy as A, B, C. Just order a free Non-Cooperation With Supermarkets boycott kit (see back cover), adopt a store, and begin your boycott.

A Store . . .

The store you adopt to boycott can be your own local supermarket or any other that's convenient for you. Although the focus of the store boycott campaign continues to be A&P, **any supermarket carrying California table grapes can and should be boycotted.**

Adopt your local supermarket or another store as your own personal or group project and then begin putting into practice the non-violent actions suggested in your boycott kit to get the store to stop selling California table grapes for the duration of the boycott.

And a Kit

The non-cooperation kit is designed to minimize the time required for your actions. After your have adopted a store and have your kit, you can follow the suggestions rather easily. However, if more information or advice is needed, Huerta said the boycott office at UFW headquarters in La Paz will have a special 800 telephone number available for

UFW boycotter Dan Martin (right) signs up customers upset that supermarkets are selling table grapes containing dangerous pesticide residues.

do-it-yourself boycotters to use.

Some of the steps explained in the store boycott kit include how to check a store to see if it is carrying California table grapes (during the summer and fall practically **all** table grapes in U.S. supermarkets are from California), what to talk to the store manager about when asking him or her to stop selling poisoned grapes, how to organize a petition drive to show the manager that people want grapes removed from the store, how to organize a delegation to present the petitions to the store manager, asking him to remove the grapes from the store.

Do-It-Yourself Pesticide Test

One of the most important items in the boycott kit is a newly developed pesticide-detection system that will permit you to do on-the-spot tests to show that table grapes contain pesticide residues on both the outside and inside of table grapes.

This test, developed last year by EnzyTec, Inc. of Lenexa, Kansas, detects residues of organophosphate and carbamate insecticides. It is relatively simple, no specialized training is required to use it, and on-the-spot results are available within minutes. It's the perfect answer to a store manager who insists the store's grapes and other fruits and vegetables are free from pesticide residues. It's also a good tool to educate consumers about the poisonous pesticide residues on the food they eat.

A Sense of Compassion

No do-it-yourself boycotter needs to worry about having to be unusually aggressive or provocative in carrying out store boycott procedures. Based on the principle that the truth itself provides enough conviction to win the day, UFW store boycotts are always carried out with the simple presentation of facts and without the slightest hint of physical or verbal violence.

What is needed, however, is a feeling of compassion for farm workers who can no longer vote in free and fair elections, who no longer can expect growers to bargain in good faith, and who suffer the terrible effects of poisonous pesticides on themselves and their families. That same compassion must embrace consumers, too, who unwittingly eat fruits and vegetables contaminated by residues of the same toxic pesticides that imperil farm workers in the fields.

What else can you do, you ask? Check the back cover. Send for a boycott kit. Adopt a store. Have yourself a little boycott. It'll be a big help for farm workers and consumers.

UFW CONVENTION

As a friend of farm workers, you are invited to attend the Ninth Constitutional Convention of the United Farm Workers on **Sunday, September 18, 1988**, beginning at 8 a.m. and ending at 5:30 p.m. It will be held at historic Forty Acres, two miles west of Delano, California, on Garces Highway. Simply register at the guest-registration table when you arrive, watch the proceedings in a reserved guest section, join us for lunch, and throughout the day renew acquaintances with your friends in the farm worker movement.

Just One Phone Call

Public TV to Broadcast "The Wrath of Grapes"

With just one telephone call to your local cable TV station, you can make it possible for yourself and thousands more to see the farm workers' boycott video, "The Wrath of Grapes."

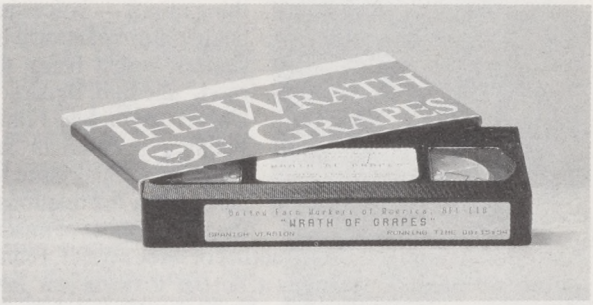
On Tuesday, August 16, from 3 to 4 p.m. Eastern Time, via Satcom 3R Transponder 7, the Deep Dish Network will transmit by satellite to cable TV stations the UFW video which dramatically illustrates the reasons why farm workers are again boycotting California table grapes. The video will be part of an hour-long show on the farm worker struggle.

"Anyone has the right to call a local cable TV station and ask the manager to broadcast the video as part of its public access programming," said Jean Caiani, national UFW boycott coordinator. Even better, Caiani suggested, callers should ask the station to tape it during the 3-4 p.m. time slot on August 16 and then advertise and show it one or more times in the evening and on weekends when more people can view it.

The same goes for people who own their own cable dish antennas. "It would be great if they could tape it on August 16 and then distribute it to their friends and organizations to use, too," Caiani said.

The Deep Dish TV Network is the first national public access satellite network and is a decentralized and diverse group of community-based independent producers, programmers, and organizations working together to build an ongoing alternative TV network. Deep Dish presents its programs on public access channels, which are channels on cable television that are open to the public. There are 716 such channels in the U.S. now and they program approximately 12,000 hours per week.

"People don't have to feel the least bit intimidated about calling their local cable TV station to ask that 'The Wrath of Grapes' be shown," Caiani said. "It's their right—it's not a concession." Public access channels exist to extend the rights of free expression under the First Amendment; they constitute the only place on



television where individuals and community groups can communicate their information and point of view.

"The Wrath of Grapes" presentation on August 16 is part of a Deep Dish series being shown in New York, Boston, Dallas, San Francisco, Chicago and 300 other cities.

"What a boost it would be for the boycott if we could get the video shown on the cable channels in all 300 cities," Caiani said.

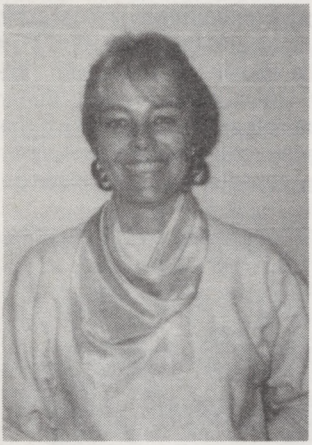
Once again, the facts: Tuesday, August 16, 3-4 p.m., Satcom 3R Transponder 7. And you don't have to know "Satcom 3R Transponder 7" from a hole in the ground. Just the facts.

Reach out.

PASSING IT ON

The January 1988 issue of *Food and Justice* featured several people who saw the UFW's free 15-minute boycott video, "The Wrath of Grapes," found it message urgent, and are now passing it on to others. They and the five profiled below represent hundreds more here and in Canada who are also showing and distributing the video. Their efforts, along with previous UFW telephone campaigns, have raised the number of copies now in use to more than 75,000 as of June 30.

Farm workers are deeply grateful to their dedicated friends who are spreading the message that will eventually win the grape boycott, restore their lost labor rights, and produce greater protection from pesticides for themselves and consumers.



Marcia Bedard, associate professor of women's studies at California State University-Fresno, shows "The Wrath of Grapes" to all her classes each semester and also makes it available for use by other professors. "Naturally, we can't use the classroom to promote personal projects," Bedard said, "but the issues raised in the video are unquestionably valid subjects for the classroom." Issues are not the only thing raised — voices are, too. "Students get angry about the mistreatment of farm workers and, as consumers, resent being lied to about the safety of food," she said. Bedard, who got her master's at the University of San Francisco and doctorate at the Fielding Institute in Santa Barbara, sees family health as a major issue in the farm worker struggle, particularly the relationship between pesticides and the high number of miscarriages and birth defects in farm worker families. "As a mother of three myself, I can identify with their pain and anger," she said. "I hate to say it, but the 'toxic racism' farm workers suffer from now is only a microcosm of what's in store for all of us if we don't face the wider problem of the toxic poisoning of our environment and deal with it effectively — and fast!"

Daniel Gil, secretary-treasurer of the 7,000-member Local 824 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in Tampa, Florida, first saw "The Wrath of Grapes" during a viewing for members of the Tampa Central Labor Council. "This was one of those times when you know right away you have to help," Gil said. "We'll all go down the tube some day if we don't help each other out in cases like this." And help he did. He made copies of the video and passed them out to fellow workers to take home to watch with their families. Gil said about 60 to 65 families have used the video so far, and he plans to keep it circulating. "They watch it, discuss it, and invariably return it promising to support the boycott," he said. Gil and his wife, Rose, have two children: Lori, 22, and Derek, 18.

After seeing "The Wrath of Grapes" during a forum for Ivy League student representatives at Princeton University, **Lisa Ramos** and members of MEZCLA, a core group of Chicana, Puerto Rican, and Native American women at Wellesley College in Boston, began using the video on campus to educate students about the grape boycott. "It was a perfect tool for our goal of getting grapes removed from the food service," Ramos said. The group first showed the video in dorms and at small student gatherings and then raised the boycott issue at a student senate meeting. Their petition — that the senate officially request the food service not to serve California table grapes for the duration of the boycott — was approved unanimously. "Student senate decisions are held in high respect here," Ramos said, "so we expect a favorable decision from the food service soon." Others in the core group besides Ramos are: Azucena Bonillas, Debbi Griffiths, Brandi Martinez, Alicia Nieto, Yvette Ramirez, Jeri Sakeagak, and Carmelita Teeter.

Ed Cantu, a political science major at Pan American University in Edinburg, Texas, saw "The Wrath of Grapes" at the University of Texas last year. "My own ethnic background made me sympathetic because the situation of the mostly Mexican-American farm workers in Texas is even more miserable than it is in California," he said. "But it's more than an ethnic concern, especially when you consider the peril of pesticides to everyone — residues threaten the Joneses buying produce in supermarkets just like the sprayings threaten the Garcias working in the fields." Besides showing and distributing the video on campus, Cantu, president of the Political Association, also wrote articles on the boycott for "The Rio" magazine and the university paper, "The Pan American." He will begin graduate work next year at the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin.

Peter Goodman, social studies teacher at James Madison High School in Brooklyn and district representative for the United Federation of Teachers, makes "The Wrath of Grapes" video available to teachers in his district who use it mostly in junior and senior high school social studies classes. "It's appropriate for both labor and toxic issues," Goodman said. "Teachers love it because it's well-made and dynamic and generates lively discussions among the students, who are engrossed by it — they identify with the young cancer victims and really absorb the message about the terrible things toxic pesticides can do to farm workers and our food." Goodman obtained his bachelor's and master's teaching degrees from City College of New York and Indiana University. He and his wife, Joan, have one son, 16-year-old Drew.

CHAVEZ BEGINS FAST

(At midnight on Saturday, July 16, 1988, Cesar Chavez began an unconditional, water-only fast at the UFW's Forty Acres in Delano, California — the site of his 25-day fast for nonviolence in 1968. The following statement on the fast was made by Chavez on July 19. — *Associate Editor*)

As I look back at this past year, I can see many events that precipitated the fast, including the terrible suffering of farm workers and their children, the crushing of farm worker rights, the denial of fair and free elections and the death of good faith collective bargaining in California agriculture. All of these events are connected with the great cause of justice for farm worker families.

"This fast is first and foremost personal. It is something I feel compelled to do. It is directed at myself. It is a fast for the purification of my own body, mind and soul.

"The fast is also a heartfelt prayer for purification and strengthening for all of us — for myself and for all those who work beside me in the farm worker movement, whatever the work we do. It is a fervent prayer that, together, we will confront and resist, with all our strength, the scourge of poisons that threatens our people and our land and our food.

"There is no doubt that we work hard at the many tasks within our movement, but the times we face truly call for more from us. Do we carry in our hearts the sufferings of farm workers and their children? Do we feel deeply enough the pain of those who must work in the fields every day with these poisons...or the anguish of the many families who have lost their loved ones to cancer...who fear for the lives of their children...who have lost their babies through miscarriage...who agonize over the outcome of their pregnancies...who are raising their children with deformities...who ask, with fear in their voices, "Where will this deadly plague strike next?" Do we feel their pain deeply enough? I know I don't — and I am ashamed.

"It is also true that some workers, because of fear or ignorance or apathy, unwittingly assist the growers in their pesticide madness, and that all of us are too ac-

Helen and Cesar Chavez receive Communion at the first Mass of the fast.

l Farm Worker Ministry
, are two residents of
eft) and Dora Rodriguez
her previous pregnancy,

gue of pesticides on our
food. I have read the
et with the experts. I
rkers and listened to the
families; I have seen
s their anguish and their
vil is far greater than
ht it to be; it threatens to
of our people and also
hat support us all. It will
l by more studies or by
ngs or executive power.
combined energy and
market place to change
ons and destruction and
ens our people and our

to this deadly crisis will
the arrogance of the
olidarity with the weak
. I pray to God that this
paration for a multitude
or justice, carried out by
n whose hearts are fo-
cused on the suffering of the poor and
who yearn, with us, for a better world.
Together, all things are possible."

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 2 KEENE, CA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

Cesar Chavez
P.O. Box 62
Keene, CA 93531-9989

Your stamp saves the farm workers money →

great movement of non-cooperation with supermarkets; that people will resist, in a myriad of nonviolent ways, the presence of grapes in the stores where they shop.

"During the past few years I have been

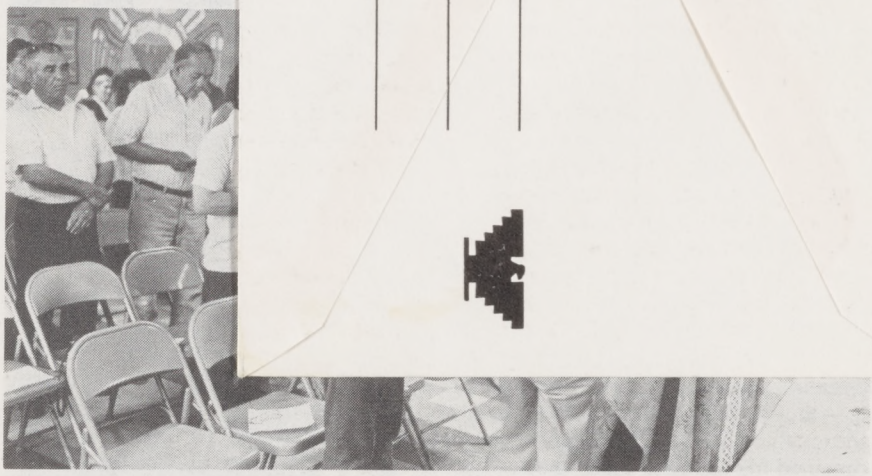
CHAVEZ BEGINS

(At midnight on S
water-only fast at the
fast for nonviolence in
July 19. — *Associate E*

As I look back at this
many events that p
including the terrible
workers and their child
farm worker rights, th
free elections and the
collective bargaining
culture. All of these ev
with the great cause
worker families.

"This fast is first and
It is something I feel co
directed at myself. It is
cation of my own body

"The fast is also a
purification and streng
— for myself and for a
beside me in the farm
whatever the work we
prayer that, together, w
resist, with all our stren
poisons that threatens
land and our food.



Helen and Cesar Chavez receive Communion at the first Mass of the fast.

Please print full name and address below.

First Name_____ Last Name_____
(Print)

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Pictured with Sister Pat Drydyk, OSF (center), director of National Farm Worker Ministry and its Ministry Among Pesticide Victims program in Delano, are two residents of McFarland who attended the first mass of the fast: Mary Magana (left) and Dora Rodriguez and her baby, Desiree. Mrs. Rodriguez, who picked grapes during her previous pregnancy, delivered a stillborn baby three years ago.

cepting of this poisonous assault on our people, our communities and our food. What have we done, you and I? What have we done that is sufficient to stop this evil in our midst?

"The fast is also an act of penance for those in positions of moral authority and for all men and women activists who know what is right and just, who know that they could or should do more, who have become bystanders and thus collaborators with an industry that does not care about its workers. How can we confront the enormity of the corporate sin that threatens our people?

"The fast is finally a declaration of non-cooperation with supermarkets who promote and sell and profit from California table grapes and who are just as culpable as those who manufacture the poisons and those who use them on workers, on our land and on our food. It is my fondest hope that our friends, everywhere, will begin a great movement of non-cooperation with supermarkets; that people will resist, in a myriad of nonviolent ways, the presence of grapes in the stores where they shop.

"During the past few years I have been studying the plague of pesticides on our land and on our food. I have read the literature and met with the experts. I have talked to workers and listened to the children and the families; I have seen with my own eyes their anguish and their suffering. The evil is far greater than even I had thought it to be; it threatens to choke out the life of our people and also the life systems that support us all. It will not be eradicated by more studies or by legislative hearings or executive power. It will take our combined energy and influence in the market place to change the cycle of poisons and destruction and death that threatens our people and our world.

"The solution to this deadly crisis will not be found in the arrogance of the powerful but in solidarity with the weak and the helpless. I pray to God that this fast will be a preparation for a multitude of simple deeds for justice, carried out by men and women whose hearts are focused on the suffering of the poor and who yearn, with us, for a better world. Together, all things are possible."

More Poisonings, More Victims

A crew of 21 farm workers at a major California grape farm and the newborn baby of a mother working at another were among the many victims of pesticide poisonings that continue to create untold grief for farm workers and their families.

Little did farm workers at Superior Farms realize as they entered a vineyard on June 23 that they would get sick and end up in the hospital to be examined for pesticide poisoning. "Yesterday, some of the workers in our crew started feeling dizzy and nauseated," said Casimiro Bustos, who had recently started working for the huge Delano-area grape company. "Today was the second day that we entered the field and we began to feel ill and nauseated and some of us started vomiting." The field, they later learned, had been sprayed with the pesticide Lannate (Methomyl) on June 19-20.

After the workers were taken to the Delano Regional Medical Center for treatment and tests, results showed that more than two-thirds of Busto's crew suffered some toxic poisoning caused by the Lannate. Four of the farm workers were kept in the hospital overnight and were put on an intravenous formula to eliminate the Lannate from their blood system.

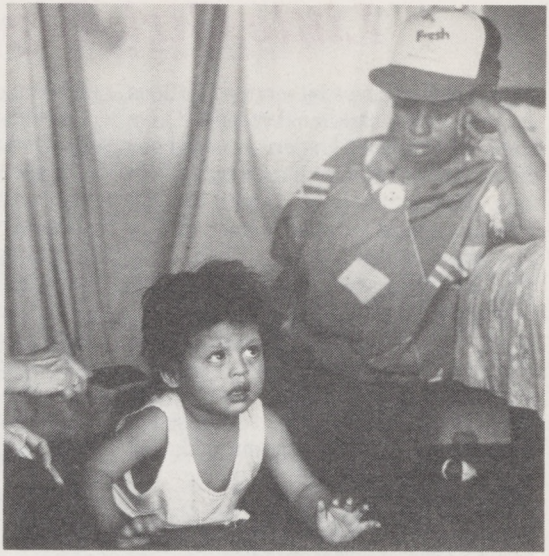
Lannate, manufactured by DuPont Chemical Co., is commonly used by grape growers to kill worms and other insects in the vineyards. However, Lannate also attacks the nervous system of humans by depressing cholinesterase, an enzyme vital to the proper functioning of the nervous system. Symptoms include blurred vision, dizziness, headaches, nausea and vomiting.

Dolores Huerta, first vice-president of the UFW, said the use of pesticides is out of control. "Agribusiness is using more pesticides than ever; they seem to care less and less about the effects of pesticides on farm workers and consumers."

According to pesticide-use reports for the year 1986, 44,000 pounds of Lannate were used on 34,000 acres of grapes

Casimiro Bustos (left) and Benisario Sanchez, two of the crew of 21 poisoned at Superior Farms in June — two of the 300,000 farm workers poisoned by pesticides in the U.S. every year.

grown in Kern County, where Superior Farms is located. About 500 million pounds are used annually on California crops.



Luis Carlos and his mother, Rosario Hernandez.

Mother and Newborn

Severe sickness during her entire pregnancy and the subsequent health problems of her newborn baby led Rosario Hernandez to believe the cause of both were the pesticides sprayed in the vineyards at American Farms in Coachella where she was working two years ago. Doctors told her it was not natural under her condition for nausea and vomiting to last so long.

Her baby, Luis Carlos Ulloa, was born with symptoms that doctors could not conclusively associate with any known illness. A peculiar itching caused Luis Carlos to scratch, writhe, and whimper and cry continuously. Different doctors thought the itching might be hepatitis, a liver problem, an infection in the blood or just a cold. A biopsy to examine his liver did not provide any clues. Rosario was told that the problems could possibly persist through adolescence. Out of desperation, Rosario traveled to Mexico and El Salvador hospitals in attempts to find a doctor who could cure him.

Luis Carlos was also born with a jaundice condition, not uncommon among newborns. However, one day Carlos started turning more yellow than usual, and Rosario took him to Kennedy Hospital in Riverside County. He was kept there 24 hours and then was transferred to the emergency room at Loma Linda Hospital in Riverside County. He remained there 15 days but the treatment provided no significant change. He had to be given sedatives to prevent the constant itching and scratching and permit the baby to sleep.

One doctor stated that the itching could be related to the pesticides Rosario came in contact with while working. He prescribed some soaps, lotions and medicine. But they did not seem to help. The illness worsened.

"I have never been sick and no one in my family has had anything like this," she said. The pesticides she came in contact with while pregnant and working are the only thing she can think of that might have caused her and her little infant's medical problems.

When Rosario tied vines in the grape fields, she noticed many times that pesticide odors were very strong. "Once they sprayed the fields and instead of waiting before going back to work a few days, we had to go back to work right after the spraying."

Mrs. Hernandez' opinion is by no means unfounded.

A recently released research study at the University of Washington in Seattle and published in the *American Journal of Public Health* suggested that women living in California counties with high pesticide use and mothers working in agriculture "have a heightened incidence of bearing babies with birth defects."

Little Girl, Big Heart

Except for being a bit more precocious than most children her age, Olive Hunt, who finished kindergarten and just turned six last month, likes to play with toys, draw pictures, frolic with her cat. The things most kids like to do — if they have arms and legs.

When Olive saw the two little handicapped children in "The Wrath of Grapes" video — Felipe Franco, born without arms and legs, and Amalia Larios, unable to walk since birth — she grew sad and teary-eyed. "We weren't so surprised at that reaction," her mother Ann said, "but we were surprised — and pleased — at how firm her resolution was to do something to help."

Ann Hunt and her daughter, Olive.

Olive is the daughter of Phillip and Ann Hunt, who live in the small community of Lake, Michigan. Besides Olive, they have two other children — Chance, 14, and Meadow, 12. Phillip and Ann had seen parts of the boycott video at different meetings but never the whole thing, so they ordered it themselves and watched it at home.

Olive took the touching scenes of Felipe and Amalia to heart right away. She was upset at what happened to them, while she had all her limbs and could walk and run and play. "We had been honoring the grape boycott for quite a while," her mother said, "but without any coaxing from us, Olive made up her mind never to eat another grape anywhere under any circumstances even though she loves them. And she became determined that others should know what's going on and not eat grapes, either."

Simple Message

Olive took her personal anti-grape crusade to her class, the school lunchroom, and her neighborhood. She reduced "The Wrath of Grapes" message for her classmates and teachers to a simple statement: "We shouldn't eat grapes because they have poison on them and they spray poison on people who grow them and they make little kids suffer, too."

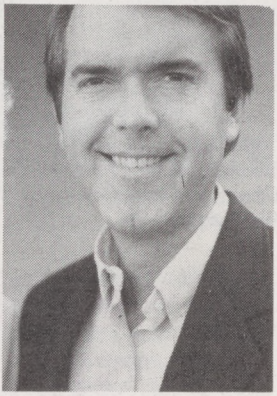
Even the moral pressure to "clean your plate" in the lunchroom took second place to her commitment. She carefully removed grapes from the fruit cocktail and put them on her plate. Not-so-approving lunchroom employees didn't faze her a bit.

Olive remembers that there was a time when even she didn't know all there is to know about the boycott, so she is tolerant when she encounters skepticism. One day she came home and coolly related what happened during a visit with an elderly neighbor who brushed aside all her grape boycott facts with a wave of the hand and an "Aw, I think that's all a bunch of bull."

Olive ended the story by telling her mother, "He just needs a little more information, that's all."

Our Alumni

Since the early 1960s, thousands of volunteers have served on our staff for only modest benefits. From time to time, we enjoy featuring former staff members who moved on to new careers after making important contributions to the farm worker cause. In a sense, they never really left us. They stay in touch. The support our struggle. They are still what they were then — our friends.



Fred Ross, Jr. learned the techniques of organizing about the same time he was being toilet-trained. After all, he grew up in the home of a father who taught organizing to UFW founder Cesar Chavez and was a colleague of organizing genius Saul Alinsky. Born in 1947 in Long Beach, California, Ross worked on various farm worker projects during his high school and college years at Syracuse University and the University of California-Berkeley, where he obtained his bachelor's degree in 1970. For the next seven years, he put his organizing skills to work for the UFW. It was his idea that led Chavez to launch the 110-mile march from San Francisco to Gallo headquarters in Modesto that resulted in the passage of the farm labor law in May 1975. After leaving the UFW in 1977, Ross got his law degree from the University of San Francisco in 1980 and served as public defender for two years. His subsequent work with Central American refugees led him to join Neighbor to Neighbor in 1985, and a year later he became its executive director, the position he now holds. "In our work to change U.S. foreign policy, we employ most of the organizing techniques Dad taught," Ross said. "And just as Cesar organized farm workers to demand their rights, we are organizing people to demand that our foreign policy recognize the right of Central American and all nations to determine their own destiny."

No one except **Julie Mondaca** herself would blame her if she took some credit for her success. "Yes, I worked and studied hard and all that," she said, "but my mother's work for the farm worker movement and my own stints as a UFW volunteer gave me a perspective that will always stay with me. I'll never forget where I came from and I'll never forget the sacrifices others made that paved the way for me." Born in Los Angeles in 1958, Mondaca helped on UFW campaigns before and after graduating from Ramona Convent High School in 1976. She got her bachelor's degree in history from Harvard in 1980 and two years later obtained a master's in Public Administration at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. Since then, she has held Hispanic marketing positions in Los Angeles and last year became vice-president in charge of development for the Coronado Communications Corporation in Los Angeles. In May 1987, Mondaca volunteered her services to help the UFW prepare for its 25th anniversary celebration.

Chavez is greeted by Dorothy Seeley, president of the Allied Council of Senior Citizens of Wisconsin.

NETWORKING WITH SENIOR CITIZENS

Considering the warm welcome he received, farm labor leader Cesar Chavez might have thought Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas was indeed his own home when he appeared there on June 8 to address a large audience of delegates to the Nineteenth Constitutional Convention of the National Council of Senior Citizens.

Accorded a standing ovation after being introduced by NCSC President Jacob Clayman, Chavez congratulated the senior citizens not only for being America's leading advocacy organization for the elderly but also for their stated goal of working "for human dignity for people of all ages."

Nobody could possibly take more comfort from that goal than farm workers, Chavez informed the NCSC. "Your concern for the youngest child working in an onion or potato field and the oldest man or woman about to be fired without decent retirement benefits is heartwarming," Chavez said. "Because your own benefits are often threatened by budget cutters, you are sensitive to the plight of millions of farm workers who work in miserable conditions and then have no financial security to look forward to after their working days are over."

Networking Partners

Addressing the large crowd of delegates at a general session in the hotel's Colosseum Ballroom, Chavez took note of several connecting strands that make the UFW and NCSC good networking partners. "For one thing, we are both about the same age," he said. "Your council was born in 1961 and our union in 1962. Your more than 4,800 affiliated clubs are made up of trade-union, church, and public-service retiree groups, the same groups who support our cause.

"Your council also works closely with consumer and public interest groups, which have been so helpful in our efforts to combat the pesticide threat to both farm workers and consumers. Finally, your council is the only senior advocacy group to be endorsed by the American labor movement; in fact, the national AFL-CIO has urged all union retiree clubs to affiliate with your council."

UFW Retirees

Chavez informed the NCSC delegates about the UFW's own senior citizens. In 1973, after the union was in existence only a little more than 10 years, the UFW began negotiating contracts with pension benefits, the first pension plan ever for farm workers in the nation. Named the Juan de la Cruz Farm Workers Pension Fund in honor of a 60-year-old farm worker murdered on a picket line in 1973, the fund issued its first pension checks to UFW retirees in June 1983. "A dignified retirement for farm workers was one of the earliest goals of our union," he said, "and the pride and joy on the faces of the retirees when they received their first monthly checks at a special ceremony was indescribable."

Response to Boycott Appeal

During his presentation, Chavez showed the delegates "The Wrath of Grapes," the UFW's short but powerful portrayal of the reasons the farm workers are again boycotting grapes. "Once again, the powers that be — namely, agribusiness and California Governor George Deukmejian — are bent on destroying everything we've gained for our workers: the right to organize, the right to free elections, the right to good-faith bargaining, the right to decent living and working conditions, the right to protection from poisonous pesticides, and, yes, even the right of our retirees to pension benefits."

Chavez appealed to the delegates to help farm workers win the table grape boycott by refusing to buy California table grapes, by not shopping at A&P and affiliated supermarkets now being boycotted, and by distributing the video as widely as possible. "We know networking is a two-way street, and even now, limited as we are, we will do whatever we can to help you achieve your goals," he said. "And some day, when we convince greedy growers once and for all that they are not going to destroy us, we can support your efforts with even more strength."

Boycotters Jean Caiani and Dan Martin, who accompanied Chavez to the convention, said the response after Chavez' appeal was amazing. "The convention broke for lunch right after Cesar spoke, and we were swamped," Caiani said. "More than 800 delegates asked for videos and about 200 said they wanted to 'adopt a store' and distribute leaflets about the grape boycott. Their concern was so genuine."

"It was the most rewarding late, late lunch I've ever had," Martin said.

Chavez is introduced by NCSC President Jacob Clayman (at podium) before addressing delegates at a general session held in the Colosseum Ballroom.

HELP US STOP THE POISONED GRAPES

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1
Keene, CA

PLEASE RETURN THIS SIMPLE FORM TODAY . . . in the envelope attached to the center of the magazine.

☐ **Please send me more information on how I can get the poisoned grapes out of my local supermarkets.**

02
RAYMOND & P NAVARRO
7090 MIAMI ST
RIVERSIDE CA 92506